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Evolution of Magnetic Polarons through the Metal-Semiconductor Transition of Gd-doped EuO *

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There has been a great deal of interest recently in understanding the role of magnetic polaron formation in governing complex metal-semiconductor transitions and colossal magnetoresistance-type behavior in a variety of materials. To investigate this relationship, we present Raman scattering studies of magnetic polaron development and the metal-semiconductor transition of Gd-doped EuO single crystals as functions of Gd-concentration, temperature, and magnetic field. Our studies reveal two major properties: (1) the development of a spin-flip Raman scattering response due to magnetic polaron formation when the temperature approaches the ferromagnetic ordering temperature, and (2) a spin-fluctuation-induced electronic Raman scattering response, which shows a maximum response at T_c. As we will discuss, the temperature-, field-, and doping-dependence of these scattering contributions convey a great deal of information regarding the spin- and charge-dynamics in various phases of this strongly correlated electron system.

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